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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Gen. Buyukanit: Terror impediment to mother tongue broadcast - Milliyet  
Gen. Buyukanit: Turkey will definitely enter EU - Hurriyet  
Safire: AKP government 'amateurs' - Milliyet  
Wolfowitz: Iraqi WMD was a pretext - Aksam  
Blair warns Iran, Syria: Don't support terror - Turkiye  
Ahmad Chalabi: Saddam alive, behind terror attacks in Iraq - Turkiye  
IMF's Kahkonen: Everything's going well - Sabah

##### OPINION MAKERS

Bremer complains of Iranian destabilization activity in Iraq - Radikal  
U.S. bans diplomats' access to Iraq - Cumhuriyet  
Safire: U.S. might forgive Turkey, but won't forget - Yeni Safak  
Blair inspects his Basra colony - Yeni Safak  
Iraqi public servants fear losing jobs - Zaman  
Russian press: U.S. will hit Iran from Baku - Radikal

##### FINANCIAL JOURNALS

Government hopeful to reach growth target - Finansal Forum  
Cenbank buys \$30 million daily - Dunya

#### BRIEFING

Military on EU: Deputy Chief of Staff, General Buyukanit said at a symposium in Istanbul on Thursday that EU membership was a geo-strategic necessity for Turkey. 'TGS believes Turkey must join the EU if it wants to modernize,' Gen. Buyukanit said. He warned against using the EU as a domestic policy tool, papers note. "Cumhuriyet" comments that Gen. Buyukanit has issued a warning to the fundamentalists attempting to exploit EU norms and values in order to make their goal a reality. Gen. Buyukanit is against broadcast in mother tongues, particularly in Kurdish until the terror threat is brought to an end, papers say. 'It's impossible to control broadcasts in Kurdish, even on state TV,' Buyukanit stressed. Meanwhile, objections from the military wing of the National Security Council (NSC) obliged the government to delay the EU adjustment package until July, dailies say. The government was planning to enact the reforms just before the June 21 EU summit in Thessalonica, Greece reports underline. Foreign Minister Gul and some cabinet members are reported as voicing the government determination to pass the reforms as soon as possible.

TUSIAD in U.S.; Gul: All papers report the visiting TUSIAD delegation's call on NYT's William Safire in New York on Thursday. TUSIAD Chairman Ozilhan told Safire that some minor disagreements should not disrupt relations between U.S. and Turkey, according to papers. Safire, as appeared in an op-ed, reportedly told the delegation that the GOT should do something to eliminate the senseless Kurdish phobia in Turkey, adding that Ankara should put an end to domestic pressure on Kurdish culture and language. Foreign

Minister Gul, on his way back from the OIC meetings in Tehran, criticized Ozilhan's notice to the government that time was not yet appropriate for a high-level official Turkish visit to the U.S. Gul reportedly said that "Turkey has an ambassador in Washington. Channels between U.S. and Turkey are not blocked. People in Turkey should cease taking initiative for the sake of their own PR."

Iraq: Foreign Minister Gul said on Thursday that he might have the opportunity of meeting with Secretary Powell at the NATO summit in Madrid. Responding to a question about Poland's invitation for Turkey to the international peacekeeping mission around the Iraqi towns Najaf and Karbala, Gul said (although not very enthusiastically) that Turkey would consider contribution for the sake of stability in Iraq. Meanwhile, "Yeni Safak" reports the Northern Iraqi KDP leader Barzani as welcoming the election of a Kurd mayor for Kirkuk, and as stressing that he would support the return of exiled Kurds to Kirkuk.

U.S. warns against immunity of diplomats in Iraq: Papers report on a U.S. Administration announcement that the U.S. would not recognize the diplomatic status of foreigners in Iraq. State Spokesman Boucher said the U.S. reserved the right to deport "unwanted persons" from Iraq, and advised diplomats not to go there until a new administration is set up. Turkey's Baghdad embassy might be closed, papers think. "Zaman" predicts a new "diplomatic crisis" between Washington and Ankara.

Iraqi rebuilding: "Milliyet" reports a Bechtel Corp. announcement saying its subcontractors would be given Iraqi reconstruction jobs between \$300,000 - \$1 million. Turkey's Constructors' Association said current conditions in Iraq are discouraging, and that the best business with the war ravaged country would be exports.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION

##### A general view

Cengiz Candar wrote in mass appeal DB-Tercuman (5/30): "There are signals that the damaged relationship between U.S. and Turkey can be repaired. For instance, Turkish troops might take part in an international peacekeeping force for Iraq. . However, Ankara must stay away from meaningless and dangerous formulations such as offering to police the holy Iraqi Shiite towns Najaf and Karbala, which have the potential to draw Turkey into a regional blood feud. Foreign Minister Gul's OIC speech in Tehran, in which he urged the Islamic world for reforms regarding human rights and democracy, and his call for a search to explore the origins of violence, can be read as an effort to repair the strain in ties with the U.S. Apparently, the addressee was Washington rather than Muslims."

##### Changing alliances

Zeynep Gurcanli commented in the tabloid Star (5/30): "Foreign Minister Gul has supported democracy and transparency in messages for the Muslims at the OIC meetings. American sources say that lately, AKP has been sending 'back-channel' messages to Washington, to the effect that the U.S. can trust Turkey on Iran. . During the Israeli Defense Minister's call on Ankara earlier this week, the AKP government and Israel have decided to carry out 'espionage cooperation' against the Iranian threat and terror. . The cold winds between Turkey's military and EU seemingly affected our army's relationship with the U.S. as well. The U.S. wants a 'reliable ally' in the fragile Iraqi geography, which is totally at odds with the Turkish army's Kurdish policy. NSC Secretary Gen. Kilinc said a year ago that Turkey could form an alliance with Russia and Iran. Washington, believing it was said on behalf of the Turkish military, carefully noted that statement. TGS Chief Ozkok's latest assertion highlighting the significance that Turkey attributes to the strategic partnership with U.S. might not be enough to change the picture in the short term."

PEARSON